Growing the Community since 1876

THURSDAY 5 May 2022 Ph: (02) 6366 8017 Email: molongex@bigpond.net.au www.molongexpress.com.au

\$2.00 INC GST

Council to co-host Tourism Conference

DESTINATION & VISITOR ECONOMY CONFERENCE

The 2022 NSW Local Government (LGNSW) Destination and Visitor Economy Conference will be held from 17-19 May 2022 in Orange, Blayney and Cabonne.

The conference will attract councils, industry stakeholders, and local operators to discuss insights and the ever-changing world facing future visitors. The conference will include a session from the three councils on how they work together in partnership to deliver a joint tourism brand under the Orange360 banner.

Cabonne Council will be hosting two site visits for delegates on Wednesday, 18 May 2022. One visit is to Manildra to tour the flour mill including a talk from Pioneer Brewing Co (based between Cudal and Cargo and the largest independently-owned farm based brewery on Australia's eastern seaboard which owns, grows and harvests malting barley, rye and wheat).

The other site visit is to Molong to discuss main street activation and small business creation with Molong Stores, Eden Décor, and Lime and Stone. They will explain how they set up thriving businesses during the pandemic. It will also include a discussion with the Molong Advancement Group about the importance of the relationship with council and the Progress Association, and the sustainability of small villages. This site visit will conclude with a tour to Nashdale Lane Wines luxury glamping cabins.

Cabonne Council is also hosting the gala dinner at the Australian National Field Day site. The Mayor will be providing the address at the dinner. At its last meeting Council was advised that Council staff are working with local businesses and community groups to showcase the Cabonne, Blayney and Orange region.

> Clrs Jones (Molong) and O'Ryan (Canowindra) were nominated to attend however, with a limit of two Councillor delegates, Clr Jones withdrew in favour of Clr Oldham (Molong).

Cabonne Country Tourism Advisory Committee to be replaced Page 5

New Roads Committee Page 6

Community Assistance **Program Grants Pge 7**



Aaron Trapman of Cabonne Carpets and his sidekick Jimane happy with completing the new floorcoverings at the Freemason's Hotel this week. It looks fantastic!

Autumn Tour brings visitors



Whilst the latest cars today hardly raise a passing glance - the same cannot be said for the 120 beautifully restored antique models (dating back to 1908) that drove into Cabonne Country last Saturday during the Orange District **Antique Motor Club Autumn Tour.**

What an event! What a day! What a tremendous roll out of the warm hospitality that Molong and Manildra communities are known for.

The wet day did not dampen the spirits of the proud antique car owners. More on P.2 & 4

(Above) John Witts 1923 Rolls Royce 20hp

ong real estate

42 Bank Street, Molong Phone: 6366 8800 REAL ESTATE SALES: Mark Howes - 0427668800 townsendrealestate.com.au

> House of the Week

161 Bank Street, Molong



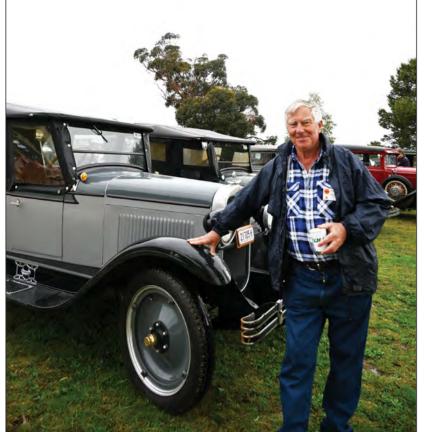
Perfect family property

If you are looking for a spacious family brick veneer home with a huge yard 5918sqm with plenty of room for the kids to play, come & have a look at 161 Bank St Molong.

Consisting of 4 spacious bedrooms dining & family rooms great kitchen space with stone benchtops, front & back verandas overlooking the spacious parklike gardens. Good shed space & carport area.

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Orange District Antique Motor Club -Autumn Tour





Molong

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Congratulations to Keith Packham (left In front of a 1927 Chevrolet), who is a long-time Molong resident and keen owner of a 1930 Buick Coupe and a 1927 Chev.

A former President of the Orange District Antique Motor Club, and a keen supporter and attender of rallies, when Keith saw the opportunity for the 2022 Orange Autumn Tour event to benefit Molong and Manildra ... he quickly put up his hand to help.

Heather Woodhouse and the Molong Show Society team added to the Molong success turning out a warming country style morning tea of a cuppa, scones jam and cream and an array of old time cake favourites.

Both pavillions were open for the guests at the Molong Showgrounds - with the sounds of lively jazz from the 1920's adding to the vintage era effect.

Well done Molong and to Keith Packham. (Note: Keith is a descendant of the family who gave Molong/Garra the now world famous Packham Triumph Pear.)

Manildra: Travelling over the Mandagery Creek, past the vast Manildra Flour Mill buildings and historical buildings of the main street ... the rally drivers lined the streets with their range of vehicles. Before heading to the 1920's style Manildra Soldiers Memorial Hall for a delicious country style lunch prepared and served by the Amusu Theatre team including (Below L to R) - Darren Stevenson, Joanne Stevenson, Joan Stevenson, Lyn Woodhart and Alan Stevenson and local helpers. The guests were then entertained at the historical Amusu Theatre where a special screening was held to further welcome and showcase Cabonne Country.









Contractors vie for Dixons Long Point Crossing job

dream year to construct crossing river at Dixons Long Point is a major step closer to reality, tenders now open to pre-qualified contractors complete the million \$29.8 project.

After extensive EOI

process conducted by Mid-Western Regional Council, three respondents have been invited to tender submissions for the design and construction of a bridge across the Macquarie River and approaching roads at Dixons Long Point.

The development of the river crossing will include early earthworks to gain access to the site, performance of remaining geotechnical investigations and approvals, and the full design and construction of access roads and the bridge.

Construction of the Dixons Long Point Crossing is expected to be complete by late

The Member for Calare and Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel, Andrew Gee, said the opening of the tender process is an important and exciting step towards construction.

"Since the days of the gold rush, residents across the Central West have raised their voices, calling for a river crossing at Dixons Long Point," said Minister Gee.

"After a century and a half of campaigning for this vital bridge to be built, locals are a step closer to walking and driving over the Macquarie River, with the project now out to tender for the long-awaited river crossing!

pre-qualified companies are vying for the contract to build the bridge which will link the region and open up access between the wider Central West region with the Hunter Valley.

"In a remarkable piece of engineering,



the bridge will be 110.8 meters long, with the bridge deck to sit 13 metres above the natural water level of the Macquarie River.

"With the current crossing closed for an average of 52 days each year, engineers expect the new bridge to be accessible to all vehicles all year round - not just 4-wheel drives! - and to withstand one in twentyyear flood events.

"Tenders for the project close in June, with a contract expected to be awarded by Mid-Western Regional Council in late July. The key, region-connecting crossing is expected to be in operation by late 2024.

"It is terrific to cross yet another milestone off the list and enter the next stage of this project, after preliminary geotechnical testing to investigate the site wrapped up earlier this year.

"The new road and crossing will deliver enormous economic and tourism benefits for current and future generations, including our primary producers.

"I'd like to thank Mid-Western Regional Council and project leader Ray Kearns for their outstanding work as well as all of the representatives of our local Indigenous organisations and nearby farmers, whom we've worked closely with.

"The project will be a game changer for the region. It will slash travel times and open the region up for tourism and business, and connect a number of local government areas including Mudgee/ Mid-Western Regional, Dubbo Regional, Bathurst, Cabonne, and Orange," said Mr

After 100 years, is it time to seal this little road?





The condition of the Molong Showground entrance road last Saturday. Even when dry - it's a shocker for such a small length of track.

We are not sure who is responsible for the short stretch of road leading into the Molong Showground, Golf Course and Caravan Park. Now acknowledged as an important and increasingly busy tourist road, the gravel track leading into the Showgrounds/Golf Club/ Caravan Park/Function-Events venue is far from satisfactory nor safe for the kind of usage that the site attracts.

Last weekend, some 120 vehicles (and sightseers) travelled the very wet, slippery and boggy road on the invitation of the residents of Molong keen to promote tourism in this area. The dirt track was a mess of deep muddy ruts, a range of slippery surfaces, and a mixed use of vehicles (including large caravans) during the day. That's no different than on most weekends (and other days) with this beautiful

landscape and facilities attracting mixed use (events, weddings, 21sts, shows, golfers, overnight and extended stay caravaners, walkers, runners, dog walkers...).

Why has this road never been sealed even with a basic topping? Even a paltry 10-20 metres a year would have had it sealed long ago. This is a long standing problem to what has become a key tourism and community facility.

It wouldn't happen at, say, Cumnock, which recently opened a splendid \$300k+ new bar and dining/exhibition pavilion that would put the Hotel Canobolas to shame.

While shared use of this Crown Land site can complicate things it is impossible to believe that, after 100 or so years, a sealed entry cannot somehow be funded.



'Welcome to Molong and the 100 year old problem of the gravel road that it seems nobody owns - or is responsible for. Last Saturday's event was important for the building of the Molong economy and tourism development? Perhaps Cabonne Councillors need to visit this growing tourism/sporting/event destination. And find a way to fix this road.

Cabonne. It's time for a Chemical CleanOut.

You can drop off for free:



Wednesday 18 May 2022. 10.00am - 1.00pm **Grain Corp Truck Stop near Silos -Mitchell Highway Molong**

www.cleanout.com.au

Only household quantities accepted (20L or 20kg), except paint. Up to 100L (in 20L containers) of paint accepted.





